

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05

SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10 /154 W

-----127624 291930Z /46

R 291525Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2339

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS VIENNA 6137

USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, AU

SUBJECT: GOA REGISTERS CONCERN OVER CUSTOMS COURT RULING IN
ZENITH CASE

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRIAN TRADE MINISTRY HAS ASKED THAT
EMBASSY CONVEY GOA CONCERN OVER US CUSTOMS COURT RULING
IN ZENITH CASE TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

2. HEAD OF TRADE POLICY OFFICE IN AUSTRIAN TRADE MIN
RUDOLF WILLENPART CALLED EMB TO REGISTER OFFICIALLY
AUSTRIA'S "ERIOUS CONCERN" OVER APRIL 12 US CUSTOMS
COURT DECISION IN ZENITH CASE. WILLENPART SAID GOA FEARED
THAT COURT'S RULING THAT JAPANESE GOVT REBATE OF INDIRECT
TAX ON TV EXPORTS CONSTITUTES A SUBSIDY WOULD BE EXTENDED
TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND COMMODITIES AS WELL. GOA WAS SEPCIALLY
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WORRIED HE NOTED, THAT A SIMILAR RULING WOULD BE HANDED DOWN
IN A PENDING CASE BROUGHT BY US STEEL CONCERNING REIMBURSE-
MENT OF VALUE-ADDED-TAXES ON STEEL EXPORTS TO THE US.
WILLENPART STRESSED EXTENSION OF THE US CUSTOMS COURT
RULING TO STEEL AND OTHER PRODUCTS WOULD HAVE "EROUS
IMPLICATIONS" FOR GATT AND THE FUTURE OF WORLD TRADE.

3. EMB OFF REPLIED THAT ADMINISTRATION STRONGLY DISAGREES WITH CUSTOMS COURT DECISION IN ZENITH CASE AND WAS APPEALING IT. USG HOPES APPEAL EFFORT WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. EMB OFF ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD APPEAL FAIL, ADMINISTRATION HAS INDICATED IT WILL SEEK CORRECTIVE LEGISLATION.

4. WILLENPART SAID THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH ADMINISTRATION POSITION IN THE ZENITH CASE. NEVERTHELESS, HE ASKED THAT THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOA VIEWS THIS MATTER BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS. WILLENPART VOICED HOPE THAT EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN BY AUSTRIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD ASSIST THE ADMINISTRATION'S APPEAL EFFORT.MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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